

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009392
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY:JKB

APPROVED BY D - WCHRISTOPHER

EUR - REBARBOUR

S/P - JWALKER

S/S - TGMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 009392

EXDIS - FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: THE ITALIAN POLITICAL CRISIS - POLICY GUIDANCE

1. DURING CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK, WE DISCUSSED THE CRITICAL SITUATION IN ITALIAN POLITICS WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO TWO POSSIBILITIES: (1) THAT THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNING FORMULA MIGHT BE EXPANDED OR REPLACED SO AS TO ALLOW A GREATER ROLE FOR THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, AS BY PERMITTING THEM TO ENTER THE GOVERNMENT MAJORITY OR (2) THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS MIGHT REFUSE TO CONCEDE WHAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE DEMANDING AND NEW ELECTIONS MIGHT CONSEQUENTLY TAKE PLACE.

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE AGREED UPON THE FOLLOWING POLICY INSTRUCTION:

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-- WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE POLICY ARTICULATED BY THE PRESIDENT THAT CALLS FOR STRICT NON-INTERVENTION IN ITALIAN INTERNAL POLITICAL MATTERS, MAKE CLEAR TO LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY THAT WE BELIEVE ALLIANCE INTERESTS WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY COMMUNIST BEHAVIOR SHOULD THEIR ROLE IN THE GOVERNING PROCESS GROW.

-- AVOID SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OR JUDGMENTS CONCERNING

ANY OF THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT FORMULAS WHICH MAY BE
PRESENTED AS SOLUTIONS TO THE PRESENT CRISIS.

-- CONTINUE TO URGE UPON CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY
SPOKESMEN OUR CONSISTENT VIEW THAT THEIR FUTURE LIES IN
REJUVENATING THE PARTY'S ELECTORAL APPEAL AND SHOWING
INITIATIVE IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO ITALY'S CHRONIC ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

-- LOOK FOR OCCASIONS TO MAKE PLAIN TO THE ITALIAN PUBLIC
AND POLITICAL FIGURES WHY THE ATTITUDES AND POSITIONS OF
ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ON KEY ISSUES SUCH AS NORTH ATLANTIC
SECURITY, ECONOMIC POLICY MATTERS, AND MAJOR MULTILATERAL
AND THIRD-WORLD QUESTIONS ARE INCONSISTENT AND ASK THEM TO
CONSIDER HOW THE ESPOUSAL OF SUCH PCI POSITIONS IN THE
GOVERNMENT WOULD AFFECT ITALY'S TRADITIONS, COMMITMENTS AND
BEST INTERESTS.

-- WORK WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SOCIALISTS AND OTHER
SURVIVING SMALL LAY PARTIES TO CONVINCE THEM WE WOULD
FAVOR AN EXPANSION OF THEIR ROLE AND A RETURN TO GOVERN-
MENT SEPARATELY OR EN BLOC SHOULD CONDITIONS PERMIT. CHRISTOPHER

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DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP
APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
S/S-O:JETOBIN

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S E C R E T STATE 009392

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 009392 ACTION ROME DATED JAN 13:

QTE:SECRET STATE 009392

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D780019-0450
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From: STATE
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, US
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